

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

May 13, 2003

Medical Malpractice Claims have been substantially reduced in the past couple of years due to a strong Quality Assurance and Risk Management Program in the Department of Health Services. Such a reduction has been evidenced by the reduction in legal settlement payouts as well. In the time period between 1995 and 2000, the amount of claims filed against the County were reduced by 200 and we saved \$10 million dollars in legal settlement payouts. These reductions are not random. Our entire risk management program, staffing and supervision were strengthened substantially after the Board approved a corrective action and risk management protocol several years ago.

After reviewing the two medical malpractice cases on today's agenda, it concerned me that the resident supervision guidelines we approved in 1998 are still not being adhered to and for that reason I was unable to support their approval.

In light of our current financial situation, we cannot afford to begin paying out large legal settlements again and more frequently, as we did in the past. These guidelines were created and approved by this Board for a reason and they must be respected and followed.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Burke	_____

Several months ago, the Department committed to an audit and informed me that it was being conducted to inform us how these Board-approved guidelines are adhered to by residents, attending physicians and department chairs; however, it is my understanding the audit has not yet been presented to the Board.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that:

1. In 30 days, the Department of Health Services shall present findings of the recent audit that was conducted to review adherence to Resident Supervision Guidelines. All hospitals must be included in such an audit; and
2. Direct Dr. Tom Garthwaite to present his recommendations about how current guidelines might be strengthened and adhered to, in order to maintain quality of care standards.